

# The Kalifornski

A publication of the  
Slavic American Cultural Organization

January-April  
2019  
Vol. #14



To inform and educate Slavic Americans, as well  
as others, of the Slavic Culture and History



**Sretna Nova Godina**

## President's Message:

Dear Members,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Year's Day with family and friends. We accomplished so much last year with many events and of course the Sister City with Cavtat. This year is our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for SACO which was the former YACO. I spent several hours at the Borina Archives of the Pajaro Valley Historical Society looking back at the first 10 years that the organization was in existence. I found so many familiar names that helped start the organization and also the list of members at that time. If anyone has any photos of any of the barbeques or dinners please let me know. We would like to make copies and give them back to you. Also, if anyone has any ideas of how to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> year please contact me. We want to make our July barbeque special.

The Student Ambassador and Exchange Program (SAEP) will be having their Fourth Annual Dinner on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at City Hall on Main St. in Watsonville. I hope to see you there.

As always, if anyone has ideas on how to improve the organization and the various functions, please let me know and I will discuss them with the committee. We encourage members to participate at our functions and help in any capacity needed.

I hope everyone has a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully, Linda Pavlovich



Linda Pavlovich,  
SACO President

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SACO Annual Membership Meeting**  
Saturday, January 26, 2019, 11:00 am  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
230 East Lake Avenue  
Watsonville, CA

**Festa Svetoga Vlaho**  
February 2, 2019  
Villa Ragusa, Campbell, CA  
1-408-605-2651

**2 Cellos**  
February 9, 2019  
SAP Center, San Jose, CA

**20th San Francisco Tamburitza Festival**  
February 17, 2019, Croatian American Cultural Center  
San Francisco, CA, 1-510-649-0941

**SAEP Fourth Annual Fundraising Dinner**  
February 23, 2019, 5:30 pm  
Watsonville Civic Plaza Community Room, 4th Floor  
with parking on the 5th & 6th level with an elevator  
275 Main Street, Watsonville, CA

**SACO Lamb Dinner**  
Tentative Date:  
Saturday, April 27, 2019

**July Picnic**  
July 7, 2019, 12:00 noon  
Corralitos Community Center &  
Padres Hall  
33 Browns Valley Road  
Corralitos, CA

**SACO/SAEP BBQ**  
Sunday, October 6, 2019

**SACO Christmas Dinner**  
Saturday, December 14, 2019

*Hope to see you at  
our wonderful events!*



Some of SACO's youngest  
members attending our  
recent Christmas Dinner

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### Treasurer's Report

Prepared by: Susan Radin Gallagher

End of the Year: 12/31/18 Balances:

Checking Account: \$21,386.31

Scholarship Account: \$2,287.00



### Membership Information

Please Note: Dues have increased from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per year.

For 2018, there were 209 individual and family memberships. Memberships are now due for 2019. Please pay your membership dues by the end of February to remain a "member in good standing".

### Christmas Dinner

We made approximately \$3,000 on our Christmas Dinner. Thank you to the following families for your donations of prizes and desserts:

Basor, Biggs, Bulich, Burdick, E. Del Piero, Dobler, Dugger, Eiskamp, Gallagher, Hager, Heebner, Hergott, Hodges, Lukrich, Muzzi, Nielsen, S. Pavlovich, Podeska, Radich, Rajkovich, Schnitter, Silvestri, Simmons, Solano, Stearns, Stringari and Vodanovich.

We would also like to thank Mattieu Morin for helping with technology and the fabulous Soquel High School Choir for their wonderful holiday carols!



### *In Memory Of*

*Sharon Alaga, Bea Drobac, Mae Stolich and Charlotte Car*

*We remember those members who have passed away. May they rest in peace.*



### SACO'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY (formerly YACO)

If you have any photos that you can share with the organization, please contact Linda Pavlovich, President.

We are looking for photos that remind us of how much we have enjoyed the years past in both YACO and then SACO.



SACO's Annual Fundraising Dinner at the Watsonville Women's Club

**"Sretan Božić" - "Merry Christmas"**

**December 8, 2018**





## SAEP UPDATE

**A Historic Evening**  
**By Eric Del Piero, Chairman, SACO/SAEP Committee**

On February 23, 2019, SACO will celebrate a historic evening and dinner celebration. SACO will have its 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party, representing the descendants of the nations which comprised the former Yugoslavia. Simultaneously, for the first time, the cities of Watsonville and Cavtat, Croatia will be celebrating their new sister city relationship. Joining the festivities will be Ivo Radonic, Deputy Municipal Prefect for the Konavle Valley and Mario Curic, the head of the department of general affairs and local self-government for Cavtat. Congressman Jimmy Panetta is also expected to attend.

The Student Ambassador and Exchange Committee is hosting our 4<sup>th</sup> annual fundraising dinner and this year the event will be held in Watsonville on the top floor of City Hall on Main Street. Award winning wines will accompany a delicious 3 course meal, preceded by appetizers, prepared by Michael's Catering.

Our first student exchange program in the summer of 2018 was considered, by every measure, to be a remarkable success. Our new goal will be to send selected high school students to Croatia in the summer of 2020. Please join us for what will be a very memorable evening. Your SAEP committee looks forward to welcoming all SACO members to an event that will be remembered for years to come. The continued enthusiasm of our young members to participate in the exchange program deserves your kind and generous support. If you have any questions, or did not receive your invitation, please contact us at 831-722-2431.

## 2018 SACO Scholarship Program for High School Seniors

The SACO Scholarship Application Packet will be available on  
Saturday, January 26, 2019, at the Club's Annual Meeting

The completed applications with the required attachments must be received by **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2019**. Area high schools will receive application packets by February 1, 2019. For high schools not receiving scholarship information and applicants living outside the Watsonville area, packets may be requested by calling one of the following coordinators.

John Basor (831) 254-2169

Maryann Bulich Schnitter 408-828-5206

Judy Hager (831) 588-9307

Antonio Violich (831) 369-0754

### SACO & Friends Giants' Bus Trip

Sunday, June 9, 2019

Giants vs. Dodgers

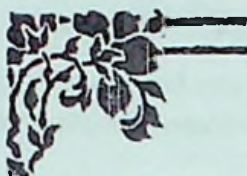
Bus pick-up in Watsonville

More details to follow!





An article written about Mr. Nick Derpich, owner of the former Miramar Restaurant on Main Street in Watsonville, for the June 1989 edition of the Kaliforniski - Enjoy!



### A TRIBUTE TO NICK

To have lived 88 years, and to have gathered as many good friends and the esteemed reputation that NICK DERPICH had, is probably the greatest tribute to any man's life. Nick had such an obvious love for life and like a piper, he sowed the seeds of joy and collected friends wherever he went. You couldn't pass him on the street and not notice him. It was impossible. He was a small man, but with his zest for living, he always sported the greatest smile, sparkling eyes and a cheery greeting.

Nick Derpich was our answer to George Jessel. He was our Toastmaster at all Yugoslav events, not just in Watsonville but wherever he visited. When Nick spoke, everyone listened because he spoke so sincerely about our culture. He encouraged so many people to be proud of the Yugoslav culture and its traditions and to keep them alive for generations to come. He and his lovely Katie were the most familiar faces at all of our YACO functions. They will be sadly missed, but in essence they will never really be gone. When a person or persons give so much of themselves to any cause, their very life is set in that cause and so they go on so long as the cause is continued.

YACO has been so fortunate to have had so many good people involved in its beginning and through the years. When we searched for a name for our organization, we wanted something to denote the strength and determination of our cause. As closely as I can recall, jako means strong and so we came as close as we could to that definition with our name. From the beginning, we had hoped to interest a wide variety

of members to YACO. We needed the older generation to show us the way and to remind us of the many valuable traditions of our culture, but we also needed the younger generation to carry on those traditions.

How fortunate we were to have attracted such valuable persons to our organization. The character of our members speaks for itself when you remember that YACO is 10 years strong and so many people were responsible for its very being. Nick was so proud of us and he encouraged us every step of the way to carry on and to remain proud always of our heritage. His pride was contagious and his joy was uncontainable. Wherever Nick went, it was as though the sun followed him. I can imagine that if need be, he could become very angry, but he seemed to know how to reach people without anger. He commanded a natural respect from people simply because he radiated that same respect for others.

Nick and his Katie were inseparable and no two people could have been more complementary to one another than they were. They supported each other in every way. They were both very proud of their lives and of their lovely daughter Geri and her husband Chuck and their treasured granddaughter Lori. They had also raised their niece, Frannie Derpich Colendich since age 10, and she became a second loving daughter to them. How rich could anyone be who has a good life, a good family and the best of friends? Nick had all of these. He made the best of his life and he left all of us richer for having known him. Each of us will always carry a part of him within us because how can you forget the sunshine after seeing Nick's smile or the joy of life after hearing Nick's greeting?

— Patricia L. Solano



### COMMITTEES —

John Bazor, Publicity .....	724-2169
Jo Puhera, Sunshine .....	724-8930
Ann Cernokus, Decoration .....	724-5179
Mary Basich, Bake Sale .....	724-3637
Ella Korach, Dessert .....	724-5532
Naida Nicholas, Dessert .....	724-9211
Nick Miloslavich, Biographies .....	462-2532
Zarko Radich, Set-up .....	722-5182

### Yugoslav Radio Hour

Remember to listen to the YUGOSLAV RADIO HOUR every Sunday at 9:35 a.m. on radio station KOMY, 1340 on the dial.

ANN & ANDY SOLDÓ are your hosts and bring you the finest in old favorites as well as the very latest music from Yugoslavia. They will be happy to play any special requests you might ask for whether it be for birthday, anniversary, or for any special announcement.

*Kaliforniski June 1989*



## Croatian Customs

*(Sent to Maryann Bulich Schnitter in order to be shared with all SACO members)*

*Shared by Milena Sorée who is a Croatian American fine art photographer who has won numerous awards for her exquisite work. Her photographs have been collected and exhibited throughout the world, including the House of Congress in Washington DC.*

**Siječanj** (pron. *sea-yeah-chañ*) is derived from the verb *sjeći* (*to chop* or *to cut*). It refers to, of course, the countryside custom of going into the forest and chopping firewood during the winter months. Although, I recall everyone in the city getting their wood delivered in October, or even toward the end of September as the nights were getting quite chili by then. That was before people got central heating.

**Nova Godina** (*New Year*) used to be celebrated for two days. Our entire family would celebrate **Silvestrovo** (*St. Sylvester's*) together on **Stara Godina** (*New Year's Eve* or *Old Year*) with a traditional roasted piglet dinner.

After midnight, **sarma** (*cauliflower rolls*) was served as a second dinner, and the revelry lasted well into the early morning hours with lots of dancing around the house. Next day, on the 1st of January, my mother would put on her evening gown and my parents went out to celebrate the new year again with their friends.

**Sveta Tri Kralja**, or Three Kings' Day (*Epiphany*) falls on January 6th, which is also a day when Christmas decorations are traditionally taken down. The gifts the kings brought with them are known in Croatian as **tamjan** (*frankincense*), **zlato** (*gold*) and **smirna** (*myrrh*).

This **blagdan** (*holiday*) is also known as **Mali Božić** (*Little Christmas*), so the month of January used to be called **malobožićnjak** in some parts of the country.

Etymologically the word **božić** means *little* or *small god* (*mali bog*) which would make **mali božić** literally a *small-little-god*. Croats sure love their diminutives

**Milena Soree**

[www.milenasoree.com](http://www.milenasoree.com)

About this photo

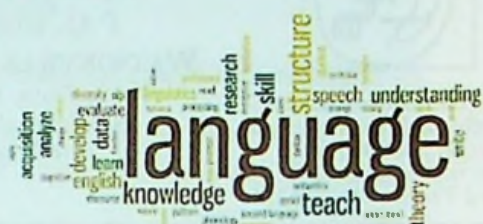
These are, of course, the rooftops of Dubrovnik. These tiles have all been pretty much destroyed during the bombings in 1991 and have since been replaced with new ones. I think of this picture as a testament of times gone by. Since it (almost) never snows in Dubrovnik, the only difference in the way it looks in different seasons is the quality of the light. During the winter months, the light has a 'whiter' or 'crispier' quality to it.





# Slavic

## ARTWORK



## LANGUAGE CORNER

### Going Out

coffee houses	kavana
club	klub
best cellar	pivnica
alcoholic drinks	alkoholna pića
brandy	rakiya
plum brandy	šljivovica
herb brandy	travarica
liquor	likor
rum	rum
cognac	konjak
entertainment	zabava
night club	noćni klub (/bar)
concert	koncert
cinema	kino
movie	film
theatre	kazalište
film festival	filmski festival
What is playing at the cinema/theatre?	Što igra u kinu/kazalištu?
How much is entrance?	Koliko je ulaznica?
How much is one ticket?	Koliko je karta?
Where can I buy tickets?	Gdje se mogu kupiti karte?





**SLAVIC AMERICAN CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION**  
P.O. BOX 226  
WATSONVILLE, CA 95077

A Non-Profit, Non-Religious &  
Non-Political Organization  
Established in 1979

All contributions are tax  
deductible with the meaning of  
Section 501 (c)(3) of the  
Internal Revenue Code  
Federal Tax I.D.#94-2885274

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS**

members and the public are welcome!

The SACO Board of Directors currently meets the 3rd Tuesday  
of every month at the Driscoll's Inc. office  
located on Westridge Drive, Building #300,  
Watsonville, CA from 7:00-9:00 PM.  
We hope to see you there!

The Slavic American Cultural Organization is a non-profit corporation  
established in Watsonville in 1979 to bring together the Slavic community  
of the former Republics of Yugoslavia which are Bosnia-Herzegovina,  
Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia for social and  
recreational purposes and to instill in the membership a pride in the  
cultural heritage, traditions and contributions of the Slavic Americans in  
Santa Cruz County. A large percentage of the local current and active  
members have a Croatian heritage.

**SACO Board of Directors**  
2018 & 2019

**President:** Linda Pavlovich  
linda.pavlovich@driscolls.com, (831)595-5898

**Vice-President:** Betty Bobeda  
bobeda@sbcglobal.net

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gigo@baymoon.com

**Treasurer:** Susan Radin Gallagher  
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**Financial Secretary:** Jolene Vukasovich  
cabakery@aol.com

**Publicity Director & Webmaster:**  
Luci Basor

lbaser19@yahoo.com

**Parliamentarian:** Stephanie Bulich  
bulich@sbcglobal.net  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Lauren Resetar Vucinich  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Kalifornski Editor:**

GeriAnne Solano Sinmons  
tomandgerianne@aol.com; (831)724-1967



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at:  
Slavic American  
Cultural  
Organization

**SACO'S (formerly YACO's) HISTORY**

Happy 40th Anniversary SACO (formerly YACO)! 40 years ago, a dedicated and  
committed group of local folks came together while attending a Croatian Lan-  
guage Class, and decided to form a Slavic American Cultural Organization where  
they could promote not only the language but also the cultural aspects of their  
ancestral homelands. This was all done while attending the class taught by  
Nevenka (Novcich) Radich at Watsonville High School during an evening Adult  
Education course that was offered. Our gratitude goes to all of those SACO  
(YACO) pioneers who led the way in making sure our current and future member-  
ship still has a purpose in joining together to promote and learn about all of our  
rich Slavic heritage. Here's to 40 more years!

*Hvala = Thank you*



Since 1979

**YACO**

*10th Anniversary*

*1979 - 1989*

**1989**

Babe Hill was elected by the Board of Trustees to serve as president  
this year. Babe, in fact, was instrumental in recruiting the trustees for  
1989. She put together a slate of people who in the past have had  
differing opinions on the direction of YACO, but who were willing to set  
aside their differences for the good of the club. The new officers/trustees  
have developed an entire program of events for 1989. They will need  
much help along the way if they are to succeed.